



Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

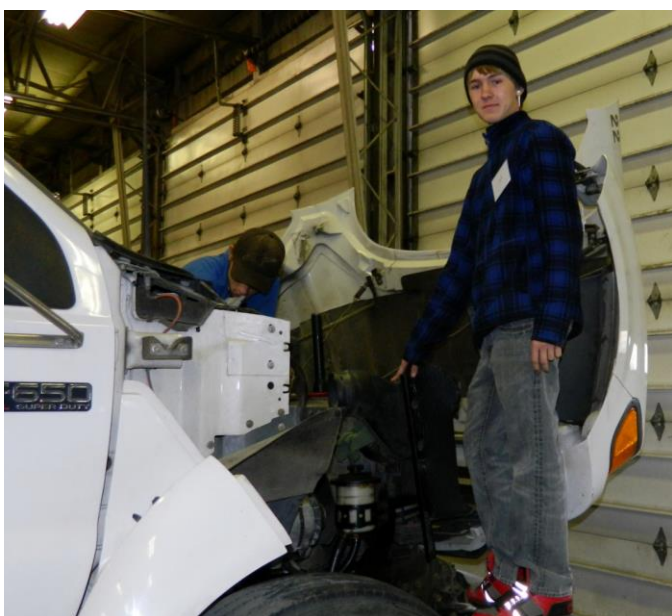


Disability Mentoring Day

2013 GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities announces the availability of funds to help local groups develop and sponsor activities associated with Disability Mentoring Day.

Grants of up to **\$1000** each will be awarded through an application process.



Nic Baldwin (Potlatch), St. John Hardware

Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) is a nationwide effort to promote career development for students with disabilities through hands-on career exploration.

Students with disabilities (mentees) are matched with workplace mentors according to expressed career interests. Mentees experience a typical day on the job and learn how to prepare to enter the world of work. Employers gain an increased awareness that people with disabilities represent an overlooked talent pool. Disability Mentoring Day is a program of the American Association of

People with Disabilities (AAPD). Through this project, local communities organize activities that

bring students and other young adults together with employers for informational sessions about career opportunities and one-on-one mentoring with volunteers at public and private places of employment.

What are the goals of Disability Mentoring Day?

- To enhance internship and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- To promote disability as a central component of diversity recruitment for a more inclusive workforce.
- To dispel employers' fears about hiring people with disabilities.
- To increase confidence among students and job seekers with disabilities.
- To launch a year-round effort to foster mentoring opportunities.



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Who participates?

Employers (private, non-profit, government, educational), students with disabilities, and educators participate in Disability Mentoring Day.

DMD is recognized nationally on the third Wednesday of every October, which is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. We encourage DMD Coordinators to schedule their local DMD activities near this date or sometime during the month of October.

SUMMARY OF RECENT IDAHO ACTIVITIES:

In October 2012, DMD activities were held in three Idaho communities: Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, and Moscow. A total of 132 students participated and were mentored by 89 employers. Activities have included pre-DMD workshops for students covering topics like: dress for success, how to be successful in an interview, soft skills and attitude, planning for your future, and motivational presentations by local community leaders and self-advocates who are leaders of organizations, self-employed, or even business owners themselves. Groups have also created mentor packets for employers to prepare them for the job shadowing activity.

Each project is encouraged to seek media coverage of their events to build public awareness about employment of people with disabilities. Projects have been successful in many locations through newspaper articles, radio spots, and television interviews/broadcasts on local stations.

To see if this is something your community group would be interested in doing, go to the [AAPD website](http://www.aapd.com/what-we-do/employment/disability-mentoring-day/) - <http://www.aapd.com/what-we-do/employment/disability-mentoring-day/>

**Applications must be received by
Friday, August 16, 2013**

For more information, please contact the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities at 1-208-334-2178 or 1-800-544-2433 or download an application from the Council website at <http://www.icdd.idaho.gov>